

MEMORANDUM

JOINT CITY OF BLOOMINGTON-MONROE COUNTY DEER TASK FORCE Wednesday, 10 October 2012, 5:30 pm Parks Conference Room (#250), City Hall, 401 N. Morton St.

PRESENT: **Task Force Members:** Bob Foyut, Judy Granbois, Thomas Moore, Susannah Smith Burchell and Dave Rollo **Staff:** Stacy Jane Rhoads.

I. WELCOME

Rollo welcomed all to the meeting of Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force. He said the focus of today's meeting is to review the group's powerpoint presentation to date.

II. PRESENTATION

Rollo ran through the draft presentation. Members made suggestions about organization.

Smith Burchell advised that the group should explain biological carrying capacity in its presentation.

Moore said that the concluding slide should include mention that no one came into the process with preconceived notions -- that the group really looked at ways to address concerns that did not involve lethal methods.

Granbois said that it is important to make clear the group had a strong consensus.

Moore said that the conclusion should also mention the need to carry this forward.

Rollo will make changes per discussion and will send revisions to the Task Force via e-mail and members can make comments and changes via Google Documents.

The group reviewed the process for presenting the material to the Council.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jay Paul Santa said that he truly appreciates and genuinely loves each Task Force member for putting their time and expertise into this issue. He said that this is being rushed to Council. He said that the community has a unique opportunity on its hands to invite the Senior Director for Wildlife Response Innovation for the Humane Society to visit Bloomington to conduct a site evaluation. He said he appreciates the Task Force's manual, but does not agree with any lethal treatment of the problem. He said that he has been in touch with Stephanie Boyles Griffin of the HSUS and he has discussed field spaying methods. He said that the community should bring her here. He said that he believes that there is one true, good omniscient creator he likes to call "the entity." He said there are a lot of people that have the same beliefs that he does. He said the Task Force should ask, "What would that creator want us to do?"

Rollo responded that the Task Force had a teleconference with Boyles Griffin on the 17th. She has had success with immunocontraception in closed, island environments. Bloomington is an open

environment and IDNR does not support the use of contraceptives in a free-ranging environment. If HSUS wants to conduct research using contraceptives, that requires the approval and cooperation of IDNR.

Rollo said that the group has worked on this issue for two years. Members of the public have had ample opportunity to participate. He said he does not think the group is rushing anything.

Eric Ost said that the reason people are showing up at this stage is because when you create a task force you're affirming that there is a problem. If people don't think there's a problem then they're not going to get involved until they see manifest action and proposals. Second of all, from what he understands of the teleconference, is that Boyles Griffin sent an email saying HSUS wanted to study an open environment and it's true they have interest in the closed and semi-closed environments but she is interested in this area because it is open. Ost said that he knows how much work it takes for a group like this. However, there are always things that are going to be left out and new things coming on the scene.

He said that he has lived in the SoMax area since 1988 is that this problem had a precursor -- the 60 acres of green space that were developed over the last 11 years. He said if you look at the statistics and if you talk to people in the neighborhood you are going to find that that is where this urban deer issue arose. It's a zoning issue and I think that we are going to have to strike a balance with all sorts of wildlife in the future. By choosing lethal means, Ost said the community will be crossing the Rubicon and it's something we are not going to be able to come back from so it needs to be done with great circumspection and respect for the process. This is an important dialogue; otherwise it's going to fracture the community.

Ost added that people are not going to participate if they do not think there is a problem. He said that he acknowledges that it is important to be involved in the process, but there is a time factor. Ost also said that the room site for tonight's Deer Task Force meeting was wrongly posted on the Task Force webpage. [Rhoads called up the website and confirmed that the correct meeting room was listed on the page.] Ost also said that the HT misannounced the community outreach meeting at Templeton.

Rollo said that the Task Force wrapping up its work does not preclude Boyles Griffin from visiting the community.

Santa said he does not understand why the community would not invite Boyles Griffin to town to do a site evaluation.

Granbois said that she thinks we are talking about two different things. The Task Force has finished its process. The group is ready to present its document to the people who asked us to prepare it. If Boyles Griffin wants to come to Bloomington and enter into the ongoing dialogue about the deer problem here, bless her heart. But as far as our process is concerned, she thinks that the consensus of our group is that we're finished.

Rhoads added that this is a complex issue, biologically and emotionally and that, as the report makes clear, this is one juncture in an ongoing dialogue about this whole issue. Nothing in this report precludes Boyles Griffin from coming to the community. The use of PZP in deer is considered experimental and any proposal to conduct research using this method would require approval of the IDNR.

Ost said that he thinks it would be useful to the City Council to know that there is this offer.

Smith Burchell pointed out that as the recommendations make clear, this issue is a very fluid one. After the Task Force ends, it will be up to someone to oversee and monitor the situation. The recommendations of the Task Force are not intended to be hard and fast recommendations that are implemented for the rest of time. Boyles Griffin is very welcome to come to the community and pursue her research. However, if she needs an invitation, that invitation should come from the entity seeing this issue forward. The Task Force's report to the Council is the group fulfilling its charge and doing what it was asked to do.

Santa said that we could set the precedent here with our community on a nationwide epidemic.

IV. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- THURSDAY, 11 OCTOBER, NOON, McCLOSKEY ROOM (Council Internal Work Session)
- FRIDAY, 19 OCTOBER, COUNCIL CHAMBERS (practice run)
- TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER, HOOKER ROOM

V. ADJOURNMENT: ~6:40pm